



Conservation Successes – October 2003

Through Time and the Mountains:

Great Allegheny Passage designated a segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

Cumberland, MD to Pittsburgh, PA (September, 2003) - In response to a joint application by Pennsylvania and Maryland, the National Capital Region of the National Park Service designated the Great Allegheny Passage as a segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST). The designated segment is a 150-mile system of trails between Cumberland, MD, and Pittsburgh, PA, of which one hundred miles between Meyersdale and Boston, PA is completed, connecting with



the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail--already recognized as a segment of the PHNST--in Ohio, PA.. While significant for its outdoor recreation opportunities, history, and educational value, the Great Allegheny Passage is also recognized for its wide range of partnerships and the dedication of volunteers organized by the Allegheny Trail Alliance, a coalition of seven trail-building groups. The National Park Service has supported the project in many ways since 1977: development of a concept plan for the Youghiogheny River Trail and various consultations through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program; Challenge Cost-Share Program funds for the design of modular bridges; assistance for development of an interpretive concept plan and design of related wayside exhibits and a guide through the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Office; technical assistance from Fort Necessity National Battlefield; and a grant through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, part of a total \$13 million in public and private funds for rehabilitation of the Big Savage Tunnel. (An event scheduled for 19 September to commemorate the opening of the Tunnel and the designation was cancelled due to Tropical Storm Isabel.) For more information, please contact Don Briggs, Supt., Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail at don_briggs@nps.gov or 304-535-4016.

Deed Presented for Park Recognition Ceremony

Community celebrates new Ohio River access

New Cumberland, WV (August 15, 2003) – The Hancock County Commissioners celebrated new public access to the Ohio River in a ceremony honoring the achievements of their Park and Recreation Department. Among the honors presented was a ceremonial deed prepared by the National Park Service (NPS) specifically for the occasion.

National Center for Recreation and Conservation programs:

- Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) - Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) -
- National Trails System (NTS) - Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) -
- Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) – Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers (PWSR) -



The Kennedy Park and Marina, located directly on the Ohio River in the community of Newell, has been assigned to the NPS Federal Lands to Parks program for conveyance to Hancock County at no cost for a public park. The 13.3-acre site, valued at \$150,000, includes a 3-lane boat ramp, marina, fishing pier, picnic area, campground, restrooms, and park office building. Hancock County was pleased to acquire the property in order to ensure permanent boating access to the Ohio River and to provide additional open space for future park developments. The transfer was negotiated by NPS Federal Lands to Parks staff. For more information, please contact Bill Huie, Federal Lands to Parks Program Manager, Atlanta, GA at bill_huie@nps.gov or 404-562-3175.

Tying the Ohio Trails Together

Simon-Kenton Trail expanded and connected to Springfield

Springfield, OH (September, 2003) – A short, but critical link of 2.5 miles of the Simon-Kenton trail opened this September. Connecting from Urbana to Springfield, the new section joins with the Buck Creek Trail that provides the link to the Little Miami Scenic Trail, which then connects south to Cincinnati! This rail-trail is a result of a partnership with the Simon-Kenton Pathfinders, the Champaign County Engineer's office and the Ohio Department of Transportation (which contributed TEA-21 funds). The NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program provided early consultation to the project, helping the Pathfinders with organizational development. This trail, now over 8 miles long in Champaign County, is a key link in connecting west-central Ohio into the expanding network of trails and greenways statewide. For more information, please contact Paul Labovitz, Program Leader/Ohio Project Manager at paul_labovitz@nps.gov or 330-657-2950.

Existing Phillips Park to be Expanded

Former Federal Nike site transferred to Holmdel, NJ

Holmdel, NJ (October, 2003) - The last section of the Holmdel Nike Site, used by the military during the Cold War era to store Nike missiles, was transferred to the Township of Holmdel. Working with the Federal Lands to Parks Program in 1972, the Township of Holmdel acquired a portion of the closed site to develop a property for recreational purposes, now called Phillips Park. Some thirty years later, Holmdel has stepped to the plate once again, working with the Federal Lands to Parks Program to add an additional 5.64 acres of land to be used for recreational purposes.

Former military houses on the former Nike missile site are being removed to make way for a new park.



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Holmdel has named this new parcel of land Veterans Memorial Park and its development will complement the existing Phillips Park. Instead of the twelve small homes for military personnel it once housed, Veterans Memorial Park will address the needs of a growing community looking for more passive recreational opportunities. Under consideration for uses of the new park will be a picnic/senior citizen's area that will include bocce courts, shuffleboard and horseshoes; another area will host a tot lot for younger children; and there will be a series of open lawn panels available as open space. For more information, please contact Elyse LaForest, Program Manager - Federal Lands to Parks, NER at Elyse_LaForest@nps.gov or 617-223-5190.

Look What's Coming Down the Track

South Fork of the Wabash-Cannonball Trail officially opens!



Lucas County, OH (August 30, 2003) – 7.3 miles of the Wabash-Cannonball Trail opened this August connecting Monclova Township through the village of Whitehouse to Providence Township. The NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program helped the project originators form the Northwest Ohio Rails to Trails Association. The Association currently owns major portions of the abandoned railroad corridor. The trail was funded with federal government transportation

grants and is a cooperative effort between the village of Whitehouse, city of Maumee, the Lucas County Commissioners, the Lucas County Engineer, and Toledo Area Metro Parks. When completed, the Wabash-Cannonball Trail will be a 26-mile trail following a triangular route connecting the city of Maumee, the village of Whitehouse, and Oak Openings Metro Park. For more information, please contact Paul Labovitz, Program leader/Ohio Project Manager at paul_labovitz@nps.gov or 330-657-2950.

Conservation Successes informs Department of Interior staff, conservation partners, and friends about the program successes of the National Center for Recreation and Conservation. For more details, please contact the staff person involved with each project.

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